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POLAND: Price Increases

There apparently has not been any immediate reaction to the price increases that went into effect yesterday. The demonstration in Gdansk on Saturday was larger than the government admits. Solidarity militant Bujak may have been arrested.

Steep food price increases took effect yesterday apparently without any major immediate reaction from the populace. At the last minute, the regime tried to soften the impact of the hikes by increasing the amount of food for sale, promising to monitor closely price changes on manufactured goods, and increasing the value of savings accounts by 20 percent. It had earlier boosted wages.

Comment: Although a government communique issued last week on the price reform claimed that the value of wage compensation would exceed the amount of the price increases, other regime statements strongly imply that the consumer has not been fully compensated. The cost of living--which increased 25 percent last year--will most likely rise again in 1982. The increased market supplies are a temporary measure that the regime can sustain only for a short time.

Gdansk Demonstration

The demonstration in Gdansk on Saturday was larger than the regime has admitted,

A group of perhaps 50 young people started the demonstration outside the Lenin Shipyard, but it was joined by workers changing shifts and others until a crowd of about 2,500 marched through town. Some in the crowd threw rocks at police and set fire to a police vehicle. Later a small group, throwing stones and at least one "firebomb" at the provincial party building, was dispersed by security forces.

Comment: The regime probably is most alarmed that shipyard workers were willing to join the demonstration. Since the imposition of martial law, the authorities apparently have fired the most militant workers--the

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work force at the Lenin Shipyard evidently has been reduced by 25 percent--in order to maintain calm at the workplace. [REDACTED]

Workers' concern about jobs and the problems of unemployment--including reduced rations and mandatory work assignments--has probably cooled their ardor for protest, but the Gdansk incident demonstrates that worker militancy runs deep and can be brought forth spontaneously. [REDACTED]

Solidarity Activity

The Paris daily *Le Monde* has published the alleged government internment order for Solidarity leader Walesa and a written statement smuggled out from him calling on Solidarity not to retreat. Meanwhile, the West German press service reported that militant union leader Bujak had finally been arrested. [REDACTED]

Comment: Walesa's appeal will boost the morale of the Solidarity underground activists, but Bujak's arrest would eliminate a key organizing talent. The documents published by *Le Monde* apparently are the basis for earlier reports that Walesa's status had changed. [REDACTED]

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